



Patricia Wilson <communications@squamishminorhockey.com>

Re: Report To Council – Capital and Special Operating Projects - Recreation Task Force Considerations

Leah Hodges <president@squamishminorhockey.com>

Thu, Dec 4, 2025 at 5:52 AM

To: Anna Le Good <legood.anna1@gmail.com>, "council@squamish.ca" <council@squamish.ca>

Cc: Andrew Slater <directora@squamishminorhockey.com>, Conny Bonthron <registrar@squamishminorhockey.com>, Craig Halliday <vprep@squamishminorhockey.com>, Donn Oberg <secretary@squamishminorhockey.com>, Jennifer Schorz <directorb@squamishminorhockey.com>, Jordan McCarl <tdho@squamishminorhockey.com>, Kat Gore <trea.smha@gmail.com>, Katie Jones <directorc@squamishminorhockey.com>, Patricia Wilson <communications@squamishminorhockey.com>, Skate Sea2Sky Communication <skatesea2sky@gmail.com>

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to follow up on the correspondence sent by Anna Le Good, Vice President, House, SMHA, regarding the proposed three-year, \$1,000,000 task force for Brennan Park Recreation Centre.

SMHA met with Jason Curtis of S2 Architecture, who provided a preliminary estimate of \$20,000–\$30,000 for a comprehensive feasibility study with a 3–6 month timeline. This scope would include demand analysis, site and configuration options, cost modelling, and an implementation roadmap, work that is fully aligned with municipal best practices and already drafted in detail.

This raises a fundamental question: why would the District pursue a \$1,000,000 internal study over three years when an industry-standard feasibility process can be completed by qualified professionals for a fraction of the cost and time? Unless the goal is to further postpone expansion, the proposed approach is extremely difficult for the community to understand or support.

The Current State of Brennan Park Underscores the Urgency

The need for a fast, externally led feasibility study is not theoretical, it is driven by documented facility instability:

- Humidity inside the arena is consistently hovering around 99%, causing ceiling dripping and spectators to get wet and fogged-out sightlines.
- Water dripped from rusted overhead beams, discolouring the ice and creating slipping hazards in the stands.
- The ongoing instability threatens programming and could result in costly shutdowns, Skate Sea2Sky already reported losses exceeding \$30,000

This is not an abstract planning exercise. It is a deteriorating, over-capacity municipal facility that is already failing, and community organizations are bearing both safety risks and financial consequences.

Senior Levels of Government Have Acknowledged the Crisis

Correspondence from federal and provincial offices repeatedly emphasizes the same themes:

- Squamish's recreation infrastructure is inadequate for its population and growth projections.
- Lack of facility capacity undermines equitable access, youth sport participation, and community health outcomes.
- Travel burdens placed on families due to insufficient local facilities are recognized as a provincial concern.
- Recreation infrastructure is a priority area under emerging federal funding streams such as the Build Communities Strong Fund.

The District has been explicitly told by the Province that infrastructure planning must keep pace with population and housing growth, and that municipal processes must meaningfully incorporate community input. Yet, despite a decade of known need, no expansion plan has advanced beyond conceptual discussions.

A \$1,000,000 / 3-Year Internal Process Contradicts Both Need and Best Practice

The District's new internal Recreation Centre Task Force emphasizes "validation" and "preliminary studies," yet its scope appears to duplicate work already outlined and costed by external specialists.

The task force structure, internal, slow, and resource-heavy, does not reflect:

- the severity of current facility failures
- the urgency expressed by families, user groups, and senior governments
- the existence of a ready-to-execute feasibility framework from S2

If the District proceeds with a three-year study before even reaching feasibility conclusions, expansion will be pushed to the mid-2030s at best. For a community that has already waited more than a decade, and where the only ice surface is actively deteriorating, this is not acceptable.

A Path Forward That Respects the Community

With S2's 3–6 month feasibility proposal in hand, we respectfully request that Council:

1. **Direct staff to obtain external feasibility proposals**, including the S2 estimate, for presentation to Council.
2. **Explain the necessity and added value of the \$1M/3-year internal task force**, and how it does not duplicate work already priced and scoped externally.
3. **Commit to an accelerated planning process**, consistent with both the urgency of the facility issues and the expectations of senior governments who have acknowledged Squamish's infrastructure deficit.

SMHA, and the broader user-group community, remains ready to collaborate with the District, contribute data, participate in feasibility work, and support grant readiness. But the community cannot support a process that, in effect, delays expansion for another generation.

We urge Council to pursue a path that is cost-effective, timely, evidence-based, and aligned with the lived reality of families who depend on Brennan Park every day.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leah Hodges
SMHA President
president@squamishminorhockey.com

The correspondence in this email is confidential, if you are not the intended recipient, please notify me and kindly delete it, thank you.

From: Anna Le Good <legood.anna1@gmail.com>

Date: Monday, November 24, 2025 at 2:01 PM

To: council@squamish.ca <council@squamish.ca>

Subject: Re: Report To Council – Capital and Special Operating Projects - Recreation Task Force Considerations

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to share my concerns regarding the proposed three-year, \$1 million task force process for Brennan Park Recreation Centre. I hope you will consider an approach that both accelerates this work and embraces the strengths already present within our community.

While I appreciate the intent to thoroughly understand Brennan Park's needs, it is difficult to reconcile that this work will cost \$1mil and take 3 years to complete. The 2019 Real Estate and Facilities Master Plan already identified the expansion of Brennan Park as a core priority to meet community growth. The report before you now proposes another \$100,000 to update that plan, along with several more years of internal study—work that will almost certainly confirm what has long been known: Brennan Park requires expansion and upgrades.

Given this, I strongly encourage Council to request an expedited timeline and to look for ways to streamline the process so that action can begin sooner. Our community has been advocating for this project for nearly two decades, and we are eager to see momentum.

Just as importantly, I encourage you to consider a collaborative model that involves community volunteers and user groups early and often. Across Canada, municipalities have successfully advanced complex recreation projects by working alongside their residents. I ask that you consider encouraging staff to not just consult community groups, but to embed them in the planning process. Volunteer expertise reduces both time and cost by supporting feasibility work, design feedback, and operational planning.

Municipality staff and resident group partnerships not only accelerate progress, but will undoubtedly unlock additional fundraising and grant opportunities and ensure the final result truly meets community needs.

In Squamish, countless hours of research, organizing, and advocacy have already been contributed by local groups committed to seeing Brennan Park improved. Tapping into this existing wealth of knowledge and passion is one of the most effective ways to build a project that is both financially responsible and broadly supported.

I respectfully urge Council to champion a faster, more collaborative path forward—one that recognizes the urgency of this long overdue expansion and the incredible value of genuine community partnership. Our volunteers, user groups, and residents stand ready to support the District in making meaningful progress.

Thank you for your leadership, and for considering an approach that brings our community into the process in a meaningful, proactive way.

Sincerely,

Anna Le Good